



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

MRS. VIRGINIA CULVER

Board of Governors

P. O. Box 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

January 22, 1968

American Numismatic Association Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee

Dear Committee Member,

Shortly you will be receiving a compilation of the terms and definitions in booklet form that we have been working on the past two years. You all realize the paramount importance of bringing our work to fruition. We have had published in The Numismatist definitions for fifteen terms. Unfortunately, we can not spend two years on each set of fifteen terms.

It is my hope that we can publish our terms in finalized booklet form before we next meet in convention. It is to be expected that this committee will need to function year after year to bring our terms up to date, to correct previous mistakes, and to make needed additions. Once the booklet is distributed and the numismatic fraternity subscribes to its use, the committee work will be operational and our first goal will have been reached.

As the American Numismatic Association meets only yearly in convention and since most of you members attend the Numismatic Association of Southern California's Convention, I am making arrangements for this committee to meet at the Statler on Friday afternoon, February 16th and also sometime on Saturday, February 17th in Los Angeles.

In the meantime, please give the booklet your best numismatic attention. I know there will be mistakes, corrections, additions, and deletions that we will want to correct before publishing time in August. Please send these to me before our meeting in Los Angeles.

To me our meetings have been most stimulating and enlightening. I wish that we could meet much more often and spend much more time in our discussions. However, time is very much of the essence. We can not afford to spend hours on needless discrepancies. Our mission must be accomplished and our deadline is August, 1968.

I will look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles in February and in the interim, to your suggestions and approval. Your valuable time and effort on this committee work will be rewarding to everyone in our hobby and I sincerely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress  
MRS. VIRGINIA CULVER  
Board of Governors

P. O. Box 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

May 22, 1968

To: Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee

Dear Member,

Please study the enclosed list of numismatic terms and definitions. The definitions have been scrubbed, polished, and shined with the intent to embody all of the fine suggestions which have been given. The majority of them have been refined by a gentleman who has given many long hours and thought to their perfection. New terms have been added to the last printed list which was incomplete. A few deletions have been made where necessary. No attempt has been made to include denominations.

Please send your corrections, suggestions, additions, criticisms, etc. to me as promptly as possible.....by June 20th at the latest. This will allow us some time should there be any major discrepancies, and still have something concrete when we convene in August.

The meeting of the Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee has been scheduled for Thursday morning, August 22nd in San Diego. The exact hour and room has not been decided yet by the program committee, but that information will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*

Eric -

There are a billion (1,000,000,000) typing errors and billion is one of them! We anticipate your corrections in order get out a corrected list to the committee soon after the June 20th deadline.

ABOUT UNCIRCULATED - Showing the merest trace of wear through circulation.

ADJUSTMENT - Filing down an overweight planchet, traces of which often survive the coining process. Common on 18th century coins.

ALTERED - Deliberately changed, usually unofficially and usually with a view to increasing the face value or the numismatic value of the altered object.

ANCIENT COIN - Generally any coin issued before 500 A.D.

ASSAY - Analytic test or trial to ascertain the fineness, weight, and consistence of precious metal in coin or bullion.

ATTRIBUTION - The identification of a numismatic item by characteristics such as issuing authority, date or period, mint, denomination, metal in which struck, and a standard reference.

AUTHENTICATION - Authoritative determination of the genuineness of a numismatic item.

AUTHORIZED ISSUE - An issue by a governmental authority or by civilian or military authority in control of an area.

BAG MARKS - Minor abrasions on an otherwise uncirculated coin, caused by handling in mint bags.

BILLION - A base metal consisting usually of a mixture of silver and copper, and in coins sometimes coated with a silver wash.

BINGLE - A term applied to the tokens issued by the United States government for use of the colonists in the Matanuska Valley, Alaska, colonization project in 1935.

BIT - A popular term for the Spanish-American one-real piece, which formerly circulated in the United States. More often used in the plural, as two bits (25¢) or four bits (50¢).

BROCKAGE - A coin showing one side normally struck and the other struck in intaglio mirror-image, through a malfunction of the minting process.

BULLION - Uncoined precious metal, in the form of bars, plates, ingots, etc.

BUNGTOWN - Light imitation or evasion of a British half-penny, of American or British make, which circulated without official sanction in America in the 1780's.

CABINET FRICTION - Slight surface wear on a coin or metal caused by friction between it and the tray or envelope in which it is contained.

CHECK - 1. A written order directing a bank to pay money.  
2. A token given as a means of identification or issued for small amounts of money or services at specified businesses.

CHOICE - Select; desirable; superior; better than average.

CHOP-MARK (Shroff-Mark) - A small punched impression applied usually by Chinese (chop) or Indian (shroff) banks or change office to witness the full weight of a coin.

CIVIL WAR TOKENS (see also COPPERHEADS) - Pieces usually made to the approximate size of the current U.S. cents and pressed into circulation during the Civil War because of a scarcity of small change.

CLASHED DIE(S) - Obverse and reverse dies which have come together without a planchet in place. Coins produced thereafter from such a pair of dies usually show mirror image traces of each die on the opposite side.

CLIPPED PLANCHET (CLOSE PLANCHET) - A planchet less than fully round due to its neighbor having been punched out too close to it or due to its having been punched out from too close to the edge of the metal.

COB - A Spanish colonial piece of the 17th - 18th centuries of characteristically crude fabric, irregular shape, and bearing only a partial impression of the dies.

COIN - Usually a piece of metal, marked with a device, issued by a governing authority and intended to be used as money.

COINING PROCESS - The application to a piece of metal by a coin-issuing authority of a device whereby it becomes a coin. The process may be accomplished by casting, by roller or rocker-die pressure, or by high pressure impact. In modern times the process usually involves stamping the coin in a die cavity formed by two dies coming together against the piece of metal (in this case the planchet) within a closely-fitting collar.

COLLAR - A retaining ring within which the coin dies operate; the collar forms the edge of the piece struck by the dies.

COMMEMORATIVE - A piece issued to mark, honor, or observe an event, place or person, and to preserve its memory.

COMMUNION TOKEN (CHURCH TOKEN) - A check, usually of base metal, issued by a given church to one of its communicants which witnesses to his eligibility to take communion in that church.

CONDITION CENSUS - Term introduced by Dr. Wm. H. Sheldon to denote the finest specimen and average condition of next five finest known of a given variety of large cents. Cataloguers are gradually extending use of the term to other series.

COPPER COIN - A coin containing over 95% pure copper. Copper alloys of less are usually bronze or brass.

COPY - A reproduction or imitation of an original.

COUNTER - A type of token used for computing, counting or educational purposes as in games or reckoning.

COUNTERFEIT - A numismatic object made to imitate a genuine piece with intent to deceive or defraud, irrespective of whether the intended fraud is primarily monetary or numismatic.

COUNTERMARK(ALSO COUNTERSTAMP) - A punch-mark officially applied to a coin or to a segment of a coin to change its value and/or to revalidate it where issued or elsewhere; or privately applied usually as an advertisement, a spoof or a fraud.

GROWN - A general term embracing most silver coins of from about 20 to 30 grams in weight and from about 33 to 50 millimeters in size. The term has become applicable also to most nickel-alloy coins of the same range of size and weight.

CURRENT - Money still in circulation.

DEVICE - The principal element, such as a portrait, shield, or heraldic emblem, of the design on the face of a coin, medal or token.

DIE - A hardened metal punch, the face of which carries in intaglio or incuse mirror-image the device to be impressed on one side of a planchet.

DIE VARIETY - A piece sharing certain characteristics with all pieces struck from a given die or from that die at a particular stage in its life.

DEPRESSED - A piece identical to another, except that it need not be in the identical state of preservation.

ELECTROTYPE - A copy or reproduction of a coin made by the electroplating process.

ELONGATED COIN - An oval medalet produced by a roller die, using a coin, medal, or token as a planchet - usually a cent.

ENCASED POSTAGE STAMP - A postage stamp unofficially encased in a round metal frame and intended to be used as small change.

ERROR - A coin, token, medal or paper money item evidencing a mistake made in its manufacture.

EVASION - A close copy of a coin with sufficient intentional differences of design or legend to attempt to avoid being in violation of the counterfeiting laws.

EXERGUE - The lower segment of the face of a coin, usually set off by a horizontal bar, and often displaying the date, the value, or some other identifying data.

EXONUMIA - The study and collection of any numismatic item which is not government specie.

FACSIMILE - An exact copy or reproduction.

FANTASY - An object having the physical characteristics of a coin, issued by an agency other than a governing authority yet purporting to be issued by a real or imaginary governing authority as a coin.

FDC - Mint bloom; uncirculated. Derived from Fleur de coin.

FIAT MONEY - Officially issued currency which is not redeemable.

FIELD - That part of a coin which is not occupied by the device or the exergue.

FLICKER - Coal mine token.

FORGERY - An unauthorized copy made with intent to deceive.

ERROR - A conspicuous deviation from the normal.

GEM - A relatively flawless piece of superlative quality.

HACIENDA TOKEN - A check - usually metallic - issued by a Latin-American landed proprietor as wages to his laborers, redeemable by him in merchandise. Commonest in the 19th century, encountered in varied styles and shapes.

HALF CROWN - a. A coin-usually silver- of about half-dollar size and weight;  
b. A British two-and-a-half shilling piece.

HAMMERED COIN - A coin produced by one or more hammer blows against an upper die, acting on a planchet set on an anvil die. Nearly all ancient and medieval coins were produced by one variant or another of this process.

HARD TIMES TOKEN - An unofficial large cent size copper, struck in a wide variety of types for a few years following 1834, serving as de-facto currency, and bearing a politically inspired legend; or issued with advertising as a store card.

HOARD - Usually a deposit of coins, secreted at some time in the past, discovered accidentally. Hoards often give insights of value in archeological and historical research.

IMITATION - That which is made or produced as a copy, and not usually in violation of counterfeit laws.

IMPAIRED - Damaged or mishandled; an object which is less than in new condition through other than normal wear and tear in circulation, or in addition thereto.

INCUSE - Intaglio, the opposite of base relief; in which the design is recessed rather than raised.

INTRINSIC - As applied to value; the net metallic value, as distinguished from face value.

JETON - A counter intended usually to be used for computing purposes or games.

KLIPPE - A coin on a planchet of square, rectangular or lozenge shape; struck often as a necessity piece or sometimes as a specimen or a numismatically oriented product.

LEGAL TENDER - Currency explicitly recognized by a government as acceptable in the discharge of debts.

LEGEND - The text on a numismatic item.

LOVE TOKEN - A coin which has been altered by smoothing one or both surfaces and engraving initials, scenes, messages, etc. thereon.

MATTE PROOF - A proof coin with a finely granulated surface officially produced by the issuing authority. Matte proofs were produced mostly around and just following the turn of the 20th century.

MAVERICK - An unidentified specimen.

MEDAL - Usually a piece of metal, marked with a design or inscription, made to honor a person, place or event; not intended to pass as money. (Hyphenated, as "coin-medal", "art-medal", etc. without significant change in the basic definition).

MEDALLET - A small medal no larger than one inch in diameter.

MEDALLION - A large medal, usually three or more inches in diameter.

MEDIEVAL COIN - A coin struck from about 500-1500 A.D.

MILITARY CURRENCY - A fiat medium of exchange issued by duly empowered military authority principally for use by personnel under its jurisdiction but sometimes by extension coming into general use in areas under its control.

MILLED COIN - By contrast with a hammered coin, a piece produced by pressure indirectly rather than directly applied.

MINOR COIN - A coin of less than crown size, struck in other than gold or platinum.

MINT LUSTER - The sheen or bloom on the surface of an uncirculated numismatic object resulting from the centrifugal flow of metal caused by striking with dies. Mint luster or bloom is somewhat frosty in appearance, as opposed to the mirror-like smoothness of the field of a proof.

MINT MARK - A letter or other symbol, sometimes of a privy nature, indicating the mint of origin.

MINT PACKAGED SET - A set of coins packaged at the mint.

MINT SET - One coin of each denomination produced by a given mint in a given year by a given country without regard to condition.

MISPRINT - An error in printing.

MISSTRIKE - An error in striking.

MODERN COIN - A coin struck after about 1500 A.D.

MONEY - A medium of exchange.

MULE (HYBRID) - A numismatic item whose obverse die is not matched with its official or regular reverse die, i.e. mis-matched obverse and reverse.

NECESSITY MONEY - Money issued usually locally, often under ad-hoc authorization, to meet an emergency such as a siege, a break-down of central authority, or an absence of regular money.

NUMISMATICS - The science, study, or collecting of coins, tokens, medals, orders and decorations, paper money and similar objects.

NUMISMATIST - A person knowledgeable in the science of numismatics.

OBVERSE - The side of a numismatic item which bears the principal design or device, often as prescribed by the issuing authority.

OFFICIAL ISSUE - An authorized issue which has been given specific official sanction.

ORDER - An officially recognized organization, membership in which carries a connotation of prestige or award, and which customarily issues its members insignia designed to be worn.



OVERDATE - The date made by a mint engraver superimposing one or more numbers over a previously dated die.

OVERSTRIKE - The coin, medal, or token produced by use of one of these items as the planchet on which a different coin, medal, or token is struck.

PATINA - Natural coloring acquired by a coin, token, or medal with the passage of time; an oxidation produced by certain soils and moisture thereupon.

PATTERN - A proposed coin, prepared officially by the mint or by the authorized agent of a coin-issuing authority, or prepared unofficially by an outside entrepreneur usually for submission to a coin-issuing authority. A pattern may be struck in a variety of metals, on a normal or thicker than normal planchet, and may bear either in the die or by countermark some indication of its character, such as the word ESSAI or PROVA.  
Some patterns, particularly modern ones with the differentiating words referred to, are struck in considerable numbers for presentation or propaganda purposes or with a view to accomodating or exploiting coin collectors.

PICKER'S CHIT - A receipt for a given quantity of produce ( i.e. coffee in Ceylon, berries in U.S., etc. ) given by a planter to his laborers and redeemable by him in money or merchandise.

PIEFORT - A piece struck on a planchet usually at least twice the normal thickness.

PLANCHET - The disc of material on which the die of the coin, token, or medal is impressed; also called blank, disc, flan.

PLAGUE - A flat piece, usually metal, sometimes uniface in base-relief.

PRESENTATION - The act of offering, delivering, or bestowing a numismatic item to some person or organization on special occasion or event.

PROOF - A piece produced by a technique involving specially prepared dies and planchets and usually special striking, resulting in particular sharpness of detail and a virtually flawless surface.

PROOFLIKE - Having a surface as flawless and brilliant, or nearly so, as a proof, but struck from working dies, and sold to collectors as above average specimens.

PROOF SET - One proof coin of each current denomination issued by a recognized mint for a specific year.

PROOF SURFACE - The smooth, brilliant, mirror-like reflective surface of a proof coin or medal - to apply only to those items struck as proof.

RARE - A comparative term denoting the highest degree of scarcity (exception being unique which is one only) often modified adverbially i.e. very rare or extremely rare or modified by the addition of figures i.e. R4 or R7. There is no universally accepted scale of rarity.

REISSUE - A numismatic item issued again after an extended lapse of time.

REPLICA - A copy of the original, a facsimile.

REPRODUCTION - A copy of the original, a facsimile, a replica.

RE-STRIKE - A numismatic item produced from original dies at a later date, in the case of a coin usually not with a view to meeting monetary requirements.

REVERSE - The side opposite to that on which the head or principal figure is impressed.  
The side opposite from the obverse.

REVOLUTIONARY COIN - A coin issued by an insurgent government.

SCARCE - Not common, but not as uncommon as rare.

SCRIP - Paper currency usually of denominations less than one dollar, issued as substitutes for currency by private persons or organizations. Some kinds of tokens, such as those issued by coal mines, are also called scrip.

SHINPLASTER - A term applied to Continental notes, Fractional currency, and sometimes State bank notes particularly when their value was questionable.

SILVER COIN - A coin of homogeneous alloy consisting of more than 50% silver content.

SLUG - a. A term applied to the \$50 gold coin issued by various private concerns in California from 1851 to 1855 occurring in both round and octagonal shapes.  
b. Tokens manufactured expressly for use in certain coin-operated machines.  
c. A term also applied to commemorative medals in the shape of and resembling the \$50 gold coins.

SO-CALLED DOLLAR - A medallic piece of roughly dollar size which memorializes a person, place or event or conveys a political or satirical message. Usually applied to such items produced in or pertaining to the United States.

SOUVENIR COIN - A token of a commemorative or promotional character which may purport to have some limited exchange value.

SPECIAL MINT SETS (SMS) - Coins produced under special conditions by the United States Mint at San Francisco. The first issue was dated 1965.

SPECIMEN - a. A coin or bank-note prepared often with especial care as an example of a given issue. Sometimes, particularly with banknotes, surcharged with "SPECIMEN" or a similar word.  
b. A synonym for a numismatic item i.e. a very rare specimen.

SPURIOUS - A false piece made to deceive and often being an original creation rather than a copy of a known item; not genuine, counterfeit, and false.

STORE CARD - A token bearing a business name and/or address, and often intended as a local or ad-hoc medium of exchange as well as to advertise the issuer.

TOKEN - Usually a piece of durable material appropriately marked and unofficially issued for monetary, advertising, services or other purposes.

TOKEN COINAGE - Coinage the intrinsic value of which is less than its face value.

TRIAL PIECE - A piece struck at any stage in the preparation of regular dies up to the point of their being put to use for the striking of actual coins.

TYPE SET - A collection composed of one of each coin of a given series.

UNCIRCULATED - A piece in new condition as issued by the mint.

UNIQUE - Extant in only one known specimen.

UNPUBLISHED - A numismatic item not previously documented or catalogued in numismatic literature.

VECTURIST - A collector of tokens pertaining to all types of transportation.

YEAR SET - A complete set of the coins issued by a given coining authority in a given year without regard to condition.



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

VIRGINIA CULVER (MRS. JOHN H.)

Board of Governors

P.O. BOX 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

414-

January 22, 1969

Dear Friend,

Your name appears on the Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee of the American Numismatic Association so I am assured that you will help. Since every move we make is closely watched your assistance is desperately needed!

The dangerous situation does not allow me to go into detail. All I can tell you is that we're involved in something that can mean a great deal to all of us!

All work schedules must be set in motion. We must act now. The success of our "Big Idea" hinges entirely on your cooperation. Agent 22-3 is counting on you!

We must proceed with our plans. Make every effort to complete your assignment and return it on time. In due time all assignments will be revealed to you before final arrangements are made.

It has been decided that we will not meet until final arrangements have been made, but I can assure you that our meeting place will be in code area 215. That will take place after our assignments are completed. Count on being there. Further instructions will be sent concerning code area 215.

Our first "Big Idea" (Code name - Terms Booklet) met with favor, but it was only a beginning and barely scratched the surface. Our work is cut out for us. We must enlarge it before our scheduled meeting. The enemy is not expecting progress.

Information sources indicate you can be trusted completely. Therefore, we must proceed individually until it is safe to meet and mission is accomplished! Do not divulge your assignment to anyone. Good luck on your mission!

MISSION: Additional terms and definitions

CODE MANUAL: Frey's Dictionary

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: K

TIME SCHEDULE: March 31, 1969

RETURN TO: Box 96, Thiensville, Wis. 53092

Sincerely,

Agent 22-3

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 4, 1969

Mrs. Virginis Culver  
P.O.Box 96  
Thiensville, Wisconsin 53092

Dear Agent 22-3:

You assigned us a K ration in your January 22, 1969 communication. Do you want words like kiss, kook, knschwurst, kounterfitting and knickers included?

You asked not to have the assignment divulged. I don't see how I can divulge it as I don't know what it is.

You must want all of your subjects to frey.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/etb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 25, 1969

Mrs. Virginia Culver  
P.O.Box 96  
Thiensville, Wisconsin 53092

Dear Virginia:

There was no time for me to do more than to say "hello" at the ANA meeting and I am sorry I did not clear up an inquiry or two concerning the standardization matters.

1. I want to rewrite the definition of BUNGTOWN so that on the reprint it will be more accurate.

2. It was not clear to me as to what you wanted me to do with the letter K in Frey's dictionary and I wanted to talk to you about it.

3. I don't have your telephone number because it is unlisted and will appreciate it if you will write me that number.

4. I think I still have a sense of humor in spite of all the machinations which have taken place.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/etb



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

VIRGINIA CULVER (MRS. JOHN H.)

Board of Governors

P.O. BOX 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

February 14, 1969

Dear Agent 5-14,

I can now contact you regarding your assignment. Proceed under the same rules (do not include coin denominations). Perhaps if all goes well with the present mission, we might tackle that in 2077:

I will count on receiving your communication before 3/31/69. I trust you will meet with me later in code area 215.

Seriously, Eric, since participation of this committee has been so high in the past, if my letter produces nothing more than the fun replies I've had, I'll still be ahead. Yours was one of the best!

I simply assigned each committee member a letter for additional, appropriate terms to be included in the next printing of the terms booklet - out by convention time. When these are received, a compiled list will be sent to all committee for okay. (It may be a little harder to "fudge out" on a specific, individual assignment than the general ones of the past.) Of course, I can always count on the faithful few - of which you are one.

This is not intended to be a rewrite of Frey, but thought terms might come to mind easier using something to leaf through rather than trying to simply list them off the top of your head.....thus, the reference to Frey.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

VIRGINIA CULVER (MRS. JOHN H.)

Board of Governors

P.O. BOX 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

March 28, 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric,

Thanks for your letter of March 25th. Also, my personal thanks to you for taking the time and effort to appear before the ANA board.

Re: Your questions

1. I shall be happy to have a rewrite on the definition for Bungtown and will see that it gets into the next booklet.
2. Your assignment was to add terms and definitions which need to be included that start with the letter "K". (Each member of the committee was assigned a separate letter). If you notice omitted terms beginning with other letters by all means include these too.

When I set the date, March 31st, as a deadline for the assignments I did not realize we would be away the first two weeks in April. Thus, I will not begin to assemble the material received until we return. Consequently, April 14th will be ample time for your additions.

3. While I do not mind giving you our unlisted phone number, it is naturally not for publication. Area code 414, 242-4040.
4. I say thank heavens for a sense of humor! Even with an unlisted phone number and a P.O. box, we've had the most peculiar circumstances occur since my robbery in '65.....and always when I'm attending some numismatic function.....never when I'm here at home. Perhaps not machinations as you have encountered, but a sense of humor certainly helps to alleviate alarm which could turn into fear.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*